

# The Times.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1895.

THE TIMES WELCOMES THE LEGIS-  
LATURE TO RICHMOND.

The Times welcomes Virginia's Legisla-  
ture to her capital city, and says to it  
that it will find the people who reside  
in Richmond glad to receive their fellow-  
Virginians, from whatever part of the  
noble old State they may hail, and ready  
and zealous to join with them in pro-  
moting all measures calculated to advance  
the welfare or uphold the good name of  
the State. This Legislature contains a  
very large proportion of members who  
have never served before, but they are  
Virginians, proud of their State's past,  
and eager to see her flourish in times  
to come, and the Times feels, therefore,  
that Virginia's destinies are as safe in  
their hands as in those of the oldest mem-  
bers who have served the greatest num-  
ber of terms.

Gentlemen of the Legislature, you will  
have brought before you for considera-  
tion many measures destined to have im-  
portant influences upon the material de-  
velopment of the State. These, we all  
know, will receive from you that patient  
and careful attention that you would  
bestow upon any and all measure af-  
fecting your private interests. But the  
material interests of the State are not  
the only important matters that will  
come before you for consideration. By  
far the most important subject that you  
will be called upon to consider is the  
state and condition of the suffrage in  
Virginia and the modes and methods by  
which her voters are to make their will  
known. Our elections have not been for  
the past few years what they should be.

As our election laws now stand, evi-  
dently persons are enabled to manipulate  
the elections in a way that causes the  
voters to speak results such as the voters  
themselves have not intended. Such a  
pretended election produces the result  
that the plotters desire, and not the  
result that the free and independent  
voters of Virginia desire, and it thereby  
corrupts the course of law and justice  
at their source, and spreads its horrid  
pollution over every part of the system  
of the body politic. This condition of  
affairs, though not general in our State,  
is sufficiently and flagrantly frequent to  
taint the general reputation of our elec-  
tions and to produce deep dissatisfaction,  
even in the ranks of the dominant party.

The Times most earnestly prays that  
the Legislature assembling to-day may be  
inspired to look upon proper amend-  
ments of our election laws as the first and  
most important duty committed by the  
people of Virginia to its care.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

There have been far more comprehen-  
sive messages sent in by our Presidents  
than that read in Congress yesterday  
from Mr. Cleveland. It treats a great  
variety of topics, and treats all of them  
interestingly. What he has said of our  
relations with Great Britain in connection  
with Venezuela, with Spain in connection  
with Cuba, and what he says of finance  
and revenue will be the parts of the  
message which will no doubt receive the  
greatest attention.

All that the public has had stated to  
it in regard to the Venezuela matter is  
confirmed. The message makes it clear  
that the administration has taken the  
ground that Great Britain shall not ar-  
bitrarily establish a new boundary line  
between British Guiana and Venezuela  
and without the consent of the Venezue-  
lans. It has taken the ground that Eng-  
land shall submit its dispute with Ven-  
ezuela to arbitration, or else confine her-  
self to her present boundaries.

It remains to be seen what answer  
Great Britain will make to this position,  
and stirring news may be looked for  
from this quarter at no distant day.

As was to be expected, Mr. Cleveland  
commits this country, so far as he can,  
to absolute neutrality in the matter of  
the struggle going on in Cuba. The  
jingoists who wish to see us taking  
part in that quarrel must look for such  
action as they desire, therefore, from Con-  
gress, if they get it at all.

The President's utterances in regard to  
our finances are what were to be expected  
of him. He plants himself squarely  
and flatly upon the proposition that the  
greenbacks must be called in and can-  
celled. It is impossible to understand  
how any one but a Populist can think  
otherwise about this. The Populist does,  
of course, because he has an idea that  
government is a sort of financial foun-  
tain out of which money can run in the  
form of pieces of green paper, as water  
runs out of the side of a hill. But the  
Populist is becoming harmless and no  
body pays much attention to him now.

On the subject of paper currency the  
President is learning as all the rest  
of the country is. He almost recom-  
mends turning the matter of paper cur-  
rency over to the State banks, where it  
belongs. He says:

"It has always seemed to me that the  
provisions of law regarding the capital  
of national banks which operate as a  
means to their reputation fails to make  
proper compensation for the suppression of  
State banks, which came near to the  
people in all sections of the country and  
readily furnished them with banking ac-  
commodations and facilities. Any in-  
convenience or embarrassment arising  
from these restrictions on the location  
of national banks might well be reme-  
died by better adapting the present sys-  
tem to the creation of banks in smaller  
communities or by permitting banks of  
large capital to establish branches in  
such localities as would serve the people,  
so regulated and restrained as to secure  
their safe and conservative control and  
management."

He does not quite do this, but it is  
obvious that he has learned a great  
deal on the subject. We suspect he reads  
The Times. He will never wholly under-  
stand the case, much as he has learned,  
until his mind opens to that blessed  
clause which lightens it to the knowledge  
that the Government of the United  
States has no more right to watch over  
and inspect a bank when issuing its notes  
than it has to watch a citizen when eat-  
ing his breakfast.

More than half of his long message  
is devoted to the financial question, but  
in proportion to its importance the space  
is not too great. It exceeds in its im-  
mediate influence upon the welfare of the  
whole country of each citizen, all the  
other questions combined, and Mr. Cleve-  
land evidently so regards it.

We have little hope, however, of any  
substantial relief from this Congress, un-  
less the Republicans of the House are  
more patriotic than partisan, and the  
Populists of the Senate have the wisdom  
to know that free silver is a dead issue,  
but we fear the patriotism and wisdom  
will be wanting.

### SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE POPU- LISTS.

The result of the inquiry made by the  
New York Association for Improving the  
Condition of the Poor, with the cause  
of agricultural depression in New York  
State, strongly confirms the very general  
view that such depression does exist  
upon a very large scale. The inquiry was  
made partly by correspondence and in  
part by sending a practical farmer about  
the country to talk with the farmers. Land  
is found to have depreciated in  
New York since 1870 about 50 per cent.,  
though population has increased by 1,634,-  
890 persons, and the assessed valuation of  
real property by \$1,639,643,608. The  
association ascribes the depreciation to  
low prices of products, higher price of  
labor, loss of fertility, and unjust taxation.

There is now, however, a most valuable lesson in  
protection. The principle involved in this  
case has application to every case in which  
our Congress seeks to improve the  
conditions of the people by legislating to  
help this one and make that one pay more  
for what he has to buy than he would  
have to pay if the law-maker kept his  
hands off. Nothing but mischief results  
from any enterprises of that sort, except  
that the favored individuals get rich at  
the expense of their fellow-citizens. Just  
as the Queen made a sad mess of it when  
she undertook to help a business, our  
Congress disarranges all the natural chan-  
nels of business when it thinks itself  
wiser than the God of nature and more  
capable of making laws for business than  
all the experience of all men.

The people who are injured may not  
make the outcry of the English graziers,  
but they are none the less hurt by the  
obnoxious intermeddling with the natural  
course of business.

Another mistake made by the Queen  
during the annual leave of absence of  
Sir Henry Ponsonby was of a somewhat  
more amusing character than that of which  
she was guilty in connection with  
Miss Valerie Wiedmann and Lord Oxford.

A succession of wet seasons, accompanied  
by a formidable outbreak of disease, has  
caused great havoc among the flocks of  
Great Britain, and the press was full of  
gloomy forebodings of a general calamity  
in the number of sheep in the Kingdom,  
news and subjects of popular interest  
being discussed during the early autumn, and  
editors only too glad to exploit to the utmost  
any feature. The Queen, however, took these  
utterances of the press in all seriousness, became alarmed as to the  
possible disappearance of one of England's  
principal sources of national wealth, and, acting on the impulse of the  
moment, issued a mandate dated 1,000  
miles further north than Balmoral to restrain  
China generally than Britain; 1,200  
miles nearer the northern ports of  
China, Korea, and Japan; 2,300 miles  
nearer the average of the Western ports  
of South America; 1,300 miles nearer Mel-  
bourne; over 3,000 miles nearer New Zealand.

The canal will bring New Orleans  
1,000 miles, and the Gulf ports from 300  
to 1,000 miles nearer again than New  
York. The canal will place the United States  
in touch with 300,000,000 people, with whom  
they have comparatively little  
intercourse—namely, the peoples of  
China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Ma-  
laysia, Indonesia, Polynesia, Peru, and Chile!

This means, of course, that the nego-  
cials we at present possess in the  
trade of Eastern Asia and Australasia  
will be strongly attacked by the United  
States. How this attack will be deliv-  
ered may be illustrated by the cotton  
industry. Eastern Asia is the largest  
market for Lancashire cotton, but when  
the Nicaragua canal is opened, the  
most serious injury that could be inflicted  
upon agricultural interests. Sir Henry  
was summoned post-haste to Balmoral, and, in  
deference to his advice, the royal  
edict was rescinded.

There is now, a most valuable lesson in  
protection. The principle involved in this  
case has application to every case in which  
our Congress seeks to improve the  
conditions of the people by legislating to  
help this one and make that one pay more  
for what he has to buy than he would  
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Congress disarranges all the natural chan-  
nels of business when it thinks itself  
wiser than the God of nature and more  
capable of making laws for business than  
all the experience of all men.

This is a most sensible report by this  
association, though our Populists would  
say the association is a fool and all the  
trouble comes from want of cheap silver  
money. Now, we will as the Populists  
ask, suppose a blight should  
destroy the wheat crop of Argentina, of  
Russia, of India, of Germany, and  
France, and England for the next ten  
years. Does he not think the value of  
our wheat-growing lands would immensely  
increase? And, if so, are not the con-  
clusions of this association correct, and  
would free coinage affect the matter one  
way or the other?

### QUEEN OF ENGLAND AS A PRO- TECTIONIST.

A writer in Harper's Weekly, signing  
himself "Ex-Diplomat," and evidently  
well-informed, gives a most pleasing ac-  
count of the late Gen. Sir Henry Ponsonby,  
who, for the past twenty-five years has  
held the post of which the official designation  
is Private Secretary to the Queen and  
Privy Purse, but who has really been  
her confidential adviser upon every  
conceivable subject of action.

During the life of the Prince Consort  
he performed all the functions of such  
an agent and adviser, but eight years after  
his death, Sir Henry Ponsonby, who had  
distinguished himself in the Crimean war,  
was selected by the Queen as her  
confidential adviser. His duties, up to  
his recent death, were of the most multifac-  
tious, important, and diverse character.

He was her medium for communica-  
ting with her Ministers; he read all  
of their correspondence; he advised  
them in their affairs; he was their  
agent in Washington, and in the  
various capitals of Europe; he was  
their agent in the Argentine, and in  
various countries of South America; he  
was their agent in Australia, and in  
various countries of the Orient; he  
was their agent in China, and in  
various countries of the Far East; he  
was their agent in India, and in  
various countries of Africa; he was  
their agent in Persia, and in  
various countries of the Middle East;

Once for a time he was a party to  
a political convention, while he  
was their agent in the Argentine.

He was their agent in the Argentine,  
and as one of the Democrats of  
Washington county, I protest with all  
the earnestness of which I am capable  
against the nomination of "Democrat"  
which might be personally benefited by  
changing Mr. Butt's label in order to get  
his vote in the cause for one of his  
particular friends.

WASHINGTON,  
Bristol, Va., Dec. 2, 1865.

### THE KEY OF THE PACIFIC.

Nicaraguan Canal Indorsed by an Eminent  
English Engineer.

The London Daily Graphic of Novem-  
ber 18th, in an article on Mr. Col-  
quhoun's book, says:

"Mr. Colquhoun's book on the Nic-  
araguan canal is a timely study of a sin-  
gularly important question. In the do-  
main of what Regan once called  
touching the 'Creator's handwriting' this  
enterprise is epoch-making. It will mod-  
ify conditions of life throughout the  
last frontier of the inhabited globe, and  
will bring about a complete redistribution  
and readjustment of human activi-  
ties in their most strenuous centres."

"That this is no mere hyperbole is shown  
by the fact that 'the canal,' as Mr.  
Colquhoun well puts it, 'will complete a  
perfect equatorial belt of navigation  
around the world through the gapways  
of Suez and Nicaragua.' The former  
is the link in the chain of the enter-  
prise, the linklessness of Mr. Colquhoun's  
plan arising from the probability of  
the canal being an easy accomplishment  
before the time of its completion."

The most important chapters of his  
book are devoted to an elaborate study  
of the engineering aspects of the problem  
on the spot in the spring of the  
present year, when he inspected the  
whole line of the proposed canal from  
the ocean to the interior. It is needless to follow  
him through the details of his technical descrip-  
tion of this journey, but his conclusions  
must be given. They are (1) that his conclusions  
are thoroughly practicable, (2) that  
it can be constructed for £20,000,000 which  
is £10,000,000 more than the projectors esti-  
mated; (3) that the prospective profits  
justify the large outlay, and (4) that the  
time allowed for completion, six years,  
is sufficient. It should be added that  
Mr. Colquhoun speaks on these ques-  
tions with the authority of a competent  
engineer.

Failed to Get Their Revenge.

RAHWAY, N. J., Dec. 2.—William Cadwalader  
and J. R. Gregg, both of Newark, and  
John G. Mulligan, of New York, were  
arrested yesterday for the shooting of  
two men in Jersey City last spring, made  
another engagement recently with the  
inventor of the gun used in the  
murder.

It was arranged that the Texans and  
the green-goods men were to meet in this  
place to-day, but the police induced the  
two fiery Texans to leave town without  
paying off the engagement.

New York Times.

was incensed upon the gallant general  
to accuse himself of the fact that the  
triplets or quadruplets were not immu-  
nity, and that the multiple births were  
anticipated by many distinguished men.  
Just 200 years ago Paterson, the founder  
of the Bank of England, and author of  
the disastrous Darien scheme, was born  
in the same year that the Queen was  
born. The Times will hardly think  
that the Government of the United  
States has no more right to watch over  
and inspect a bank when issuing its notes  
than it has to watch a citizen when eat-  
ing his breakfast.

Readers of The Times will hardly think  
that this gossip worthy a place in columns  
as serious as the editorial columns of  
The Times. Nor should we have given it  
a place but that it is introductory to matter  
of the most serious character. "Ex-  
Diplomat" continues:

"Another mistake made by the Queen  
during the annual leave of absence of  
Sir Henry Ponsonby was of a somewhat  
more amusing character than that of which  
she was guilty in connection with  
Miss Valerie Wiedmann and Lord Oxford.

A succession of wet seasons, accompanied  
by a formidable outbreak of disease, has  
caused great havoc among the flocks of  
Great Britain, and the press was full of  
gloomy forebodings of a general calamity  
in the number of sheep in the Kingdom,  
news and subjects of popular interest  
being discussed during the early autumn, and  
editors only too glad to exploit to the utmost  
any feature. The Queen, however, took these  
utterances of the press in all seriousness, became alarmed as to the  
possible disappearance of one of England's  
principal sources of national wealth, and thus  
acted."

Another minute discussion of the value and  
probable effects of the Nicaragua canal  
when completed. Mr. Colquhoun reminds  
us that in these speculations he has been  
anticipated by many distinguished men.  
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